

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicant thanks Examiner Sabrina Chang and Primary Examiner Jeffrey Smith for the courtesy of the interview conducted with the undersigned on May 28, 2003.

As discussed in the interview, Applicant has amended claims 1, 12, 18, and 19 to further clarify that (1) the network activity is associated with a user operating a user interface (such as a web browser), and (2) that the user interface is reconfigured by adjusting network preference information associated with a user. Support for all such clarifying amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed, and no new matter is believed added by this amendment. Claims 6, 7, and 16 are cancelled, as their respective limitations have generally been incorporated into the base claims. Claims 3 and 5 are amended to correspond to changes made to claim 1 from which they depend.

In the Office Action dated February 12, 2003, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by the article "How to Personalize the Web" (Barrett, Rob, et al.; Oct. 13, 1999). As discussed in the interview of May 28, 2003, the cited reference fails to teach or suggest a method which includes either measuring a characteristic of said network activity of a user operating a browser or reconfiguring said browser by adjusting network preference information associated with said user based at least in part on said characteristic.

As discussed in the interview, the Barrett reference fails to teach or suggest any browser preference reconfiguration or measurement of user interest. Instead, the Barrett reference describes a system which provides back-end, performance-enhancing customization of a user's web surfing experience. Barrett provides a system that sits between a user's browser and the Internet, and filters and alters incoming content (Barrett, pg. 2, last line - pg. 3, pp. 1). The customizations contemplated by Barrett include modifying incoming web documents, indicating connection speed and performance of certain URL's and/or servers (Barrett, pg. 9, pp. 3 - pg. 10, pp. 1; "Web traffic lights"), storing web page text for quicker future searches (Barrett, pg. 7, pp. 3 - pg. 8, pp. 1; "Personal history"), and notifying a user of changes in web pages or URL's (Barrett, pg. 9, pp. 2; "Page watching"). All of Barrett's functions are directed to increasing web-computing speed, and nothing in Barrett's stand-alone tool contemplates configuring a user's browser or other software.

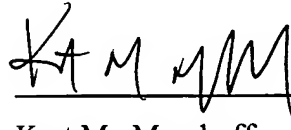
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that each of the claims, as amended and as newly-presented, are patentable over the reference cited (alone or in combination with other references). Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims allowed. Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are therefore kindly requested. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact Kurt M. Maschoff using the information provided below.

Applicants hereby request a 1-month extension of time. The \$110 fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17(a) is included herein. While no further fees are believed due in conjunction with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account 50-1852 to charge any fees required under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17.

June 9, 2003

Date

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K M Maschoff', written over a horizontal line.

Kurt M. Maschoff
Registration No. 38,235
Buckley, Maschoff, Talwalkar & Allison LLC
Five Elm Street
New Canaan, CT 06840
(203) 972-0081